

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05 HA-05 DOE-15 SOE-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /146 W
-----062298 201624Z /46

P 201409Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9265
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 05183

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MILI, SOPN, UR, US, XF, SO, GT
SUBJECT: SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS HITS U.S. THIRD WORLD POLI-
CIES

SUMMARY: SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS OVER WEEKEND MARCH 18-20
USES NON-RELATED EVENTS IN THIRD WORLD TO LASH OUT AT
U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. WHILE SUBSTANCE IS OF LITTLE SIG-
NIFICANCE, VOLUME IS NOTEWORTHY, ESPECIALLY IN CONJUNCTION
WITH CONTINUED LARGE VOLUME OF OTHER ANTI-AMERICAN
COVERAGE. END SUMMARY.
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1. SOVIET WEEKEND CENTRAL PRESS USED POLITICAL-MILITARY
EVENTS IN THIRD WORLD AS PEGS ON WHICH TO HANG U.S.
ISRAELI MOVE INTO LEBANON IS MOST TOPICAL AND WAS
COVERED IN NUMEROUS TASS ARTICLES FROM VARIOUS CITIES AS
WELL AS IN SIGNED PIECES IN MARCH 19 PRAVDA ("INTER-
NATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN BY B. OREKHOV) AND IN KZ ("INTER-

NATIONAL MIL-POL REVIEW" BY M. PONOMAREV AND V. VINOGRADOV). BASIC THEMES WERE:

-- U.S. DID NOT "DIRECTLY" CONDEMN ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN UNSC DEBATE THUS DEMONSTRATING U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAELI EXPANSIONIST POLICY (PRAVDA, MARCH 20, TASS, N.Y.);

-- JUDGING BY STATEMENTS OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, ISRAELI ACTION WAS UNDERTAKEN WITH THE "KNOWLEDGE" (VEDOMA - ALSO CAN BE TRANSLATED AS CONSENT) OF THE U.S. AND BECAME POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE DIRECT SUPPORT OF U.S. (KZ - PONOMAREV, VINOGRADOV);

-- ISRAELI MOVE HAS CREATED A SITUATION "FRAUGHT WITH MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES" WHICH, UNLESS CHANGED, CAN LEAD TO OTHER ARAB STATES BEING DRAWN INTO THE CONFLICT (PRAVDA - OREKHOV, ALSO FOLLOWING POINT);

-- ISRAEL WAS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE ITS MOVE BY SUCH ASPECTS OF U.S. POLICY AS (A) U.S. MOVEMENT AWAY FROM U.S.-SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT ON M.E., AND TOWARD SUPPORT OF SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS AS MEANS OF SPLITTING ARAB UNITY; (B) U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S DESIRE FOR DEALING WITH ITS OPPONENTS ONE AT A TIME. ISRAEL OPPOSES GENEVA SINCE IT KNOWS THAT AT THE CONFERENCE IT WOULD BE OPPOSED BY A UNITED FRONT OF ARAB STATES
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SUPPORTED BY THE SOVIETCO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE.

2. U.S. POLICY IN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY IN HORN, WAS THEME OF LENGTHY, ANTI-AMERICAN PIECE IN MARCH 18 IZVESTIYA BY SENIOR POLITICAL COLUMNIST V. KUDRYAVTSEV AND WAS ALSO TOUCHED ON IN OREKHOV'S PRAVDA COLUMN AND TASS ADDIS ABABA NOTE (PRAVDA, MARCH 20) ON ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY COMMENT ON STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. READINESS TO SUPPLY SOMALIA WITH ARMS. KUDRYAVTSEV'S PIECE WAS RAMBLING TOUR THROUGH ALL OF AFRICA, BUT MAIN POINTS INCLUDED:

-- U.S. AFTER VIETNAM DECIDED TO USE LOCAL REACTIONARY AND CHAUVINISTIC FORCES AS ITS CAT'S PAWS ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, THUS EGYPTIAN MILITARY POTENTIAL WAS DIRECTED AGAINST PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES (E.G., PILOTS AGAINST SHABA UPRISING, MILITARY DIVERSION AGAINST LIBYA, AND AID TO SOMALIA);

-- U.S. USED "WEAK SPOT OF AFRICAN CONDITIONS" - EXISTENCE OF DISPUTES OVER COLONIAL BORDERS - TO ENCOURAGE SOMALIS TO ATTACK ETHIOPIA. SOMALI CHAUVINISTIC CIRCLES

MIGHT NOT HAVE DECIDED ON OGADEN ADVENTURE IF THEY HAD
NOT BEEN INSTIGATED TO DO SO BY VEILED U.S. PROMISES TO
SUPPLY ARMS;

-- ALTHOUGH "OFFICIALLY" U.S. RULING CIRCLES DECLARED
THEY WOULD NOT SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIS AS LONG AS THEY
WERE IN OGADEN, THESE CIRCLES PROVOKED THE SOMALI-
ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT AND SUPPLIED ARMS TO SOMALIA THROUGH
"FIGURE HEADS" - SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN, EGYPT AND SUDAN;

-- U.S. IS CONDUCTING ACTIVE POLICY, ALONG FINANCIAL-
ECONOMIC LINES, TO TEAR NIGERIA AWAY FROM REST OF
AFRICA. PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT THERE WILL MARK THE
VERY FIRST PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO AFRICA.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 05183

3. LAST AND LEAST IS M. KALASHNIKOV'S "COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN" IN MARCH 20 PRAVDA ON TOPIC OF RECENT ELECTIONS IN GUATEMALA. AFTER REMARKS ABOUT ONE MILITARY REGIME SUCCEEDING ANOTHER IN GUATEMALA, KALASHNIKOV WARMS TO HIS REAL THEME: THE HYPOCRISY OF U.S. "ENDLESS" DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOMPANIED BY U.S. SUPPORT FOR SUCH REPRESSIVE REGIMES AS THOSE IN GUATEMALA. KALASHNIKOV CITES AS EXAMPLES OF THIS SUPPORT U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA (ONE OF FIVE L.A. COUNTRIES RECEIVING MOST U.S. MILITARY AID), AND RECENT AID CONTRIBUTION OF \$410 MILLION TO BUILD A
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POLICE ACADEMY.

4. COMMENT: CENTRAL PRESS USE OF THIRD WORLD EVENTS TO HIT U.S. IS NOT NEW, BUT RECENT VOLUME, PARTICULARLY IN COMPANY WITH OTHER PRESS CRITICISM OF U.S. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES, SEEMS PARTICULARLY HEAVY. WHILE SUBSTANCE OF ALL THIS IS OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE, WE DO NOTE UNUSUALLY CANDID ADMISSION OF WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED TO BE SOVIET CONCEPT OF GENEVA MEPC - ISRAEL AND U.S. ON ONE SIDE OF TABLE, ARABS AND SOVIETS ON THE OTHER. TOON

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PEPR, MILI, SOPN, UR, US, XF, SO, GT
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